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Amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) A portable article of the smart card type, the article comprising firstly a body and secondly an integrated circuit chip (9), said integrated circuit chip (9) having a central processor unit (CPU) connected via a data and address bus to memories (ROM, RAM, EEPROM), and further including at least a first contact pad (VCC) suitable for providing the chip (9) with a power supply voltage, a second contact pad (GND) suitable for grounding the chip (9), a third contact pad (D+) and a fourth contact pad (D-), said contact pads (VCC, GND, D+, D-) being electrically connected respectively to a first contact area (C1), a second contact area (C5), a third contact area (C4), and a fourth contact area (C8) of a set of eight contact areas (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8) flush with the surface of the article body, ~~said portable article being characterized in that the third and fourth contacts pads (D+, D-) are being~~ connected to an interface of the chip (9) and ~~are being~~ suitable for providing data transmission under the control of the central processor unit (CPU), the chip (9) further including a fifth contact pad (VPP), a sixth contact pad (RST) suitable for resetting the chip (9), a seventh contact pad (CLK) suitable for providing the chip with a clock signal, and an eighth contact pad (I/O) suitable for inputting and outputting data signals using an asynchronous protocol, said sixth, seventh, and eighth contact pads (RST, CLK, I/O) being connected electrically respectively to a sixth contact area (C2), a seventh contact area (C3), and an eighth contact area (C7) of the set of eight contact areas flush with the surface of the article body.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A portable article according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) constitute a differential pair, ~~the a~~ potentials present on said ~~the third pads~~ being opposite to ~~each other~~ a potential on the fourth pad.

4. (currently amended) A portable article according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) are suitable for transmitting data using protocols defined in the universal serial bus (USB) standard.

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5 (currently amended) A method of transmitting data to an integrated circuit chip (9) of a portable article of the smart card type including an article body, said integrated circuit chip (9) comprising a central processor unit (CPU) connected via a data and address bus to memories (ROM, RAM, EEPROM) and further comprising at least a first contact pad (VCC) suitable for providing the chip with a power supply voltage, a second contact pad (GND) suitable for grounding the chip (9), a third contact pad (D+) and a fourth contact pad (D-), said contact pads (VCC, GND, D+, D-) being electrically connected respectively to a first contact area (C1), a second contact area (C5), a third contact area (C4), and a fourth contact area (C8) of a set of eight contact areas (C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8) flush with the surface of the article body, said in which method being characterized in that the a data handled by the central processor unit (CPU) is transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) connected to an interface of the chip (9), and wherein a sixth contact pad (RST) resets the chip (9), a seventh contact pad (CLK) provides the chip (9) with a clock signal, and an eighth contact pad (I/O) provides data signal input and output using an asynchronous protocol, said sixth, seventh, and eighth contact pads (RST, CLK, I/O) being electrically connected respectively to a sixth contact area (C2), a seventh contact area (C3), and an eighth contact area (C7) of the set of eight contact areas flush with the surface of the article body.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) constitute a differential pair.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein data transmission via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-) takes place in both directions in alternation.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein to process data transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-), a clock is generated internally in the chip.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein data is transmitted via the third and fourth contact pads (D+, D-) using a synchronous communications protocol.

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11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein data transmission is provided at rates going up to a value of about 12 megabits
per second.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein data transmission is provided using protocols in compliance with the universal
serial bus (USB) standard.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claims 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein in order to transmit data via the third and fourth pads (D+, D-), the portable
article is connected to a connector of a reader (2) in such a manner that initially
connection is made to the second contact area (C5), then connection to the third and
fourth contact areas (C4, C8), and finally connection to the first contact area (C1).

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